

Message Text

SECRET

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S E C R E T CAIRO 18867

EXDIS HANDLE AS NODIS

FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY SAUNDERS FROM AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: OVIP
SUBJECT: CAMP DAVID MEETINGS

REF: STATE 202720 (NOTAL)

1. HAVE ALREADY GONE ON ASSUMPTION THAT I HAVE STANDING INSTRUCTIONS TO URGE THE EGYPTIANS TO LOWER THE RHETORIC BETWEEN NOW AND THE MEETINGS AT CAMP DAVID, ESPECIALLY WITH RESPECT TO PERSONAL ATTACKS ON BEGIN.

2. ALTHOUGH EGYPTIAN PUBLIC MEDIA HAS BEEN PRETTY GOOD THE LAST WEEK OR SO, I TOOK THE OCCASION OF MY MEETING WITH FONMIN KAMEL LAST SATURDAY TO AGAIN REMIND HIM OF THE IMPORTANCE OF THIS ASPECT. KAMEL READILY AGREED AND SAID HE HAD AGAIN DISCUSSED THE MATTER WITH SADAT FOLLOWING THE SECRETARY'S DEPARTURE. HE HAD REMINDED SADAT THAT ANIS MANSOUR, BECAUSE OF THE LATTER'S PERCEIVED CLOSE CONNECTIONS WITH THE PRESIDENT, IS GENERALY REGARDED AS SPEAKING FOR THE PRESIDENT. SADAT HAD ASSURED HIM THAT MANSOUR WILL BE KEPT IN LINE.

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3. LAST SATURDAY EVENING, I HAD THE OCCASION TO SPEAK WITH MININFO UNDERSEC MURSI SAAD EL DIN TO MAKE THE POINT TO HIM THAT PUBLIC MEDIA RHETORIC SHOULD BE LOWERED. MURSI INDICATED THAT WORD HAS ALREADY COME FROM THE PRESIDENCY TO DO SO AND THAT THE EGYPTIAN PUBLIC MEDIA HAS BEEN APPROPRIATELY INSTRUCTED.

4. MURSI MADE THE POINT, HOWEVER, THAT THE ISRAELIS ARE NOT HELPING. HE POINTED TO SHARON'S PUBLIC STATEMENT THAT ADDITIONAL SETTLEMENTS WILL BE ESTABLISHED IN THE WEST BANK. MURSI NOTED THAT THIS KIND OF THING, COMING SHORTLY BEFORE SADAT'S TRIP TO THE UNITED STATES TO MEET WITH PRESIDENT CARTER AND BEGIN, CAUSES EMBARRASSMENT FOR SADAT. IF THE ISRAELIS CONTINUE THEIR PUBLICITY ABOUT NEW SETTLEMENTS, MURSI WARNED, IT WILL BE DIFFICULT FOR EGYPT TO AVOID PUBLICLY ATTACKING THESE ACTIONS. I SAID I UNDERSTOOD EGYPTIAN SENSITIVITIES ON THE SETTLEMENTS ISSUE, BUT URGED THAT EGYPTIAN PUBLIC MEDIA CONTINUE TO BE ENJOINED TO PLAY IT COOL.

5. COMMENT: SHARON'S STATEMENTS ON NEW SETTLEMENTS ARE ANYTHING BUT HELPFUL TO THE OBJECTIVE OF KEEPING THE RHETORIC DOWN. IF WE HOPE TO KEEP THE EGYPTIANS IN LINE, THERE MUST BE SOME MUTUALITY TO STOPPING PROVOCATIVE RHETORIC. I HOPE THAT WE ARE MAKING REPRESENTATIONS TO THE ISRAELIS ON THIS SCORE. EILTS

SECRET

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